

REVIEW OF THE GENUS *CACOMANTIS* MÜLL.

BY ERNST HARTERT.

THE genus *Cacomantis* (synonyms *Polyphasia*, *Gymnopus*, and *Ololygon*) has received rather harsh treatment in the *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.*, and more recently by Mathews, who went entirely wrong about the nomenclature. Shelley enumerated ten species; I now admit four species, separable into twenty-seven subspecies. The differences from Mathews's treatment—which he now told me he considered wrong himself in parts, i.e. the application of the name "*rubricatus*"—will be seen in the following notes; as it is, neither of Mathews's specific names, as used in his *B. of Australia*, is correct, and much time had to be wasted on clearing up the nomenclature of the forms.

CACOMANTIS MERULINUS.**1. *Cacomantis merulinus merulinus* (Scop.).**

- Cuculus merulinus* Scopoli, *Del. Flor. et Faun. Insubr.* ii, p. 89 (1786—Ex Sonnerat, *Voy. Nour. Guinée*, i, p. 121, pl. lxxxii, Island of Panay, Philippine Islands).
Cuculus flavus Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.* i, p. 421 (1788—Also based on Sonnerat, l.c., Panay).
Cuculus lanceolatus Müller, *Verh. Nat. Gesch. Oost-Indië, Land- en Volkenk.*, p. 178 (Java).
Cacomantis borneensis Bonaparte, *Ateneo Ital.* 1854, is nomen nudum!
Cacomantis dysonymus (not *dysonomus*) Heine, *Journ. f. Orn.*, 1863 ("Borneo, Java, Sumatra").

Underside of adults pale, wing 98–111 mm.

Philippine Islands, Celebes, Palawan, Sulu Islands, Borneo, Bali, Java. On Celebes rare and possibly only as a visitor from China?

2. *Cacomantis merulinus threnodes* Cab. & Heine.

- Cacomantis threnodes* Cabanis & Heine, *Mus. Hein.* iv, p. 19 (1862—Malacca).
 ? *Cacomantis merulinus subpallidus* Oberholser, *Smiths. Misc. Coll.* ix, No. 7, p. 5 (1912—Nias).

This form stands between *C. m. merulinus* and *querulus*, having wings as a rule shorter than *querulus*, and the underside is either almost or entirely as dark as in the latter, or as pale as in *C. m. merulinus*. Wings 97–107 mm.

Malay Peninsula and Sumatra.

Probably *C. m. subpallidus*, described as smaller and paler than *C. m. merulinus*, belongs also to this form, which is really intermediate and in colour sometimes like the darker, sometimes like the paler subspecies; it might therefore, as suggested by Stresemann, *Nov. Zool.* 1912, p. 333, better be labelled as *C. merulinus merulinus* \leq *querulus*, instead of a special name; Stresemann, however, assigned it only to Malacca, while it inhabits the Malay Peninsula as well as Sumatra, as shown by van Heyst's collection from N.E. Sumatra.

3. *Cacomantis merulinus querulus* Heine.

Cacomantis querulus Heine, *Journ. f. Orn.* 1863, p. 352 ("Vorderindien und Nepal").

Polyphasia rufiventris Jerdon *Ibis*, 1872, p. 15. (Name for No. 209 of Jerdon's B. India: "Lower Bengal, and all the Countries to the East, as Assam, Sylhet, Burmah, and even so far as China." Nepal substituted as typical locality by Baker in *Handl. B. India*, but as this was not mentioned by Jerdon, cannot be accepted.)

Underside of adults ferruginous rufous, wings 104-166, exceptionally even 117 and 118 mm.

Near Calcutta, in Eastern Bengal, Assam, Eastern Himalayas, southwards to Burma, to Tenasserim, east to Yunnan, southern China and Hainan.

4. *Cacomantis merulinus passerinus* (Vahl).

Cuculus passerinus Vahl, *Skriv. Nat. Selsk.* iv, p. 57 (1797—India).—I quote this, but have not seen it.

Cuculus tenuirostris Gray, in *Hardwicke's Ill. Ind. Zool.* ii, pl. xxxiv, fig. 1 (1833-34—No exact locality). *Polyphasia nigra* Jerdon, *Ibis*, 1872, p. 14, pl. i (N.W. Himalaya, S. India).

Adult: Underside slate-grey, paling on the abdomen, which is sometimes whitish, sometimes not lighter than the breast, under tail-coverts white, edge of wing white. Sometimes quite melanistic, being slate-colour all over!—juv. variable, usually above bright chestnut, with top of head, hind-neck, rump and upper tail-coverts uniform, sometimes barred; other specimens are above slaty-brown, more or less edged or barred with rufous.

Ceylon, South India to Himalayas, east to Sikkim, in the west to Simla, but absent from the Indus Valley and in Rajputana apparently only known on Mt. Abu, which is covered with forests.

This is a melanistic form, and analogies in *C. variolosus* permit us to look upon it as a subspecies of *C. merulinus*, as has been suggested first by Baker in his *Hand-list of the Birds of India*, p. 155.

CACOMANTIS VARIOLOSUS.

(This species has recently been reviewed, the Australian forms by Mathews, *B. Australia*, vii, the *sepulcralis* group by Stresemann, *Nov. Zool.* xix, 1912, pp. 334, 335, and afterwards the latter added *macrocerus* from New Britain, Rothschild & Hartert *blandus* from the Admiralty Islands, and *fortior* from the D'Entrecasteaux group. The following review, however, will show that still more forms must be recognised.)

1. *Cacomantis variolosus sepulcralis* (S. Müll.).

Cuculus sepulcralis S. Müller, *Verh. Nat. Gesch., Land- en Volkenkunde*, p. 177 (1839-1844—Java and Sumatra).

Sumatra, Java (Borneo?), Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, Sumba, Philippine Islands. It is strange that there is, apparently, no proof of the occurrence in Borneo.

The colour of the underside is somewhat variable. It is most peculiar that no specimens from Borneo are available, while specimens from the Philippines do not differ from others of Java and other localities! Wing 113-120 mm.

2. *Cacomantis variolosus everetti* subsp. nov.

A form very closely allied to *sepulcralis* is found on the Sulu Islands between Borneo and Mindanao. We have an adult female from Tawi-tawi collected by Alfred Everett in July 1893, which has the underside chestnut to the base of the lower mandible, showing no grey on the throat. A similar specimen is mentioned by Meyer and Wigglesworth (*B. Celebes*, i, p. 198) as being in Nehr Korn's collection. I name this form as above, type Everett's specimen, in memory of one of the best collectors and gentlest gentlemen whom it was my pleasure to have to do with.

3. *Cacomantis variolosus aeruginosus* Salvad.

Cacomantis aeruginosus Salvadori, *Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova*, xiii, p. 458 ("Buru, Amboina, Ceram."

Terra typica clearly Buru, specimens from Amboina and Ceram said to be exactly like the Buru ones).

Buru only.

Very much like *C. v. sepulcralis* and *virescens*, and underside very constant, dark rufous, in the series a shade darker than in *virescens*, bill larger, wing 114–119 mm.

This form differs from *virescens* almost only in the larger bill, from *sepulcralis* in the constant, and usually darker, richer, coloration of the underside, and I can well understand that it has often been united with both the latter, nor do I find any new enlightenment in Meyer & Wigglesworth's *Bird of Celebes*, i, p. 198 (not 108!).

4. *Cacomantis variolosus stresemanni* subsp. nov.

Cacomantis subsp. *C. v. aeruginosus* dictae persimilis, sed rostro multo crassiore haud difficile distinguendus.

Ceram (and probably Amboina).

The wings of the two males shot by Stresemann measure 116 and 119 mm. The colour is not appreciably different from that of Buru specimens, but the bill is strikingly thicker, higher, and wider. I therefore name it after Dr. Stresemann.

Type: ♂, Gunong Sofia, Ceram, 3,000 feet, 19. vi. 1911. E. Stresemann coll. No. 712.

5. *Cacomantis variolosus virescens* (Brüggem.).

Cuculus virescens Brüggemann, *Abh. Naturf. Ver. Bremen*, v, p. 59 (1876—Celebes).

Celebes and neighbouring Islands of Banggai, Binungko, and Tomia (Tukang Bessi group).

This form is very closely allied to both *C. v. sepulcralis* and *aeruginosus* from Buru, but has a smaller, finer bill; the rufous colour of the underside is dark and fairly constant, the upperside inclined to be more bluish; the grey on the throat is inclined to be darker.

Stresemann (*Nov. Zool.* xix, p. 334) erroneously unites with *virescens* a specimen from Tawi-Tawi in the Sulu group between Borneo and the Philippines, in fact close to Borneo. Apparently he mistook Sulu for Sula, where this form might occur, though it does not seem to be known. Wing 106–117 mm.

6. *Cacomantis variolosus infaustus* Cab. & Heine.

Cuculus assimilis Gray, 1858, nec Brehm, 1831.

Cacomantis infaustus Cabanis & Heine, *Mus. Hein.* iv, p. 23 (1862—Mysol !)

I believe we must unite the birds from Mysol, the Key and Aru Islands, the South-East Islands, Salwatti, Ceramlaut, Goram, Waigiu, the Berau Peninsula, and the north coast of Papua east of the Geelvink Bay as far as Simbang north of Huon Gulf.

The two very old specimens from Mysol collected by Heinr. Kühn are almost pure grey on the whole abdomen: the others which I have examined are not fully adult; this great amount of grey is, however, probably not a feature peculiar to Mysol birds, as among the series from the Key Islands (Tual) there is an equally grey bird, and several approaching it. Better series are required from northern Papua, Berau Peninsula, and Aru Islands—the last having frequently been visited by collectors, but never thoroughly investigated by an expert ornithologist!

All these underneath light cinnamon rufous, paler than in *aeruginosus*, with or without a grey wash, to almost pure grey, but even in the most rufous specimens the chin and upper throat remains more or less grey. The bill is long, but slender, wing 115–123 mm. Stresemann measures a ♂ from Ramu 125 mm.!

The name *Cuculus assimilis* is preoccupied, therefore *infaustus* must be used!

7. *Cacomantis variolosus oblitus* subsp. nov.

Cacomantis variolosus subspeciei *infaustus* dictae similis, sed alis plerumque longioribus, necnon colore subtus pallidiore distinguendus.

North Moluccas: Batjan, Ternate, and Halmahera, also Obi.

This form differs from its nearest ally, *infaustus*, in having the underside paler, lighter. The bill is generally larger. The rufous specimens are brighter, lighter, more ochraceous, the greyish ones more whitish grey. The wings of fully adult examples measure 125–130 mm. Type: ad., Batjan, Aug. 1902.

For want of material hitherto overlooked. The difference is striking when a series is examined. We have fourteen specimens collected by Doherty and Waterstradt, not counting juveniles. The darkest specimens are barely separable from the lightest *infaustus*.

Salvadori, in his immortal *Ornitologia Papuasie*, i, pp. 338, 339, already called attention to the greater dimensions of specimens from Batjan, Ternate, Halmahera, Moroty, Obi Major, Mafor, Duke of York, and New Britain! That was perfectly correct, but the birds from the latter islands differ again very much from the North Moluccan ones.

Cacomantis variolosus subsp. ?

Large specimens, with thick and long bills, were collected on the island of Mafor in Geelvink Bay by William Doherty. They seem to be inseparable from *C. v. fortior* of the D'Entrecasteaux Islands. Wings ♂, 127, 128, 129 mm. They are underneath pale grey with a rufous wash, one more rufous than the other two. A young from Mafor is very light.

8. *Cacomantis variolosus fortior* R. & H.

Cacomantis assimilis fortior Rothschild & Hartert, *Nov. Zool.* xxi, p. 4 (1914—Goodenough and Fergusson Islands).

Goodenough and Fergusson Islands, D'Entrecasteaux group.

Differs from *C. v. infaustus* in being larger, having larger and longer bills and longer wings. Wings 123–138 mm. The latter measurement only once, in the others 123–129 mm. Underside more or less rufescent, not quite grey as in *websteri*.

To *C. v. fortior* seem to belong also our skins from Rook, Dampier, and Vulcan Islands! Wings 120–131 mm. This distribution would be very peculiar!

9. *Cacomantis variolosus blandus* R. & H.

Cacomantis blandus Rothschild & Hartert, *Nov. Zool.* xxi, p. 290 (1914—Manus, Admiralty group).

Manus, Admiralty Islands.

This is a small form, wings adults 109–113 mm. Differs from *C. v. infaustus* in its smaller size, slate or bluish grey (not bronzy-brown) upper tail-coverts, while the underside is light cinnamon rufous, apparently never grey. Our series of eight adults and two young is the only one recorded. The grey on the throat is very pure, covering the whole chin and throat to the crop.

10. *Cacomantis variolosus addendus* R. & H.

Cacomantis addendus Rothschild & Hartert, *Nov. Zool.* viii, p. 185 (1901—Kulambangra, Central group of the Solomon Islands).

Kulambangra and New Georgia, Solomon Islands.

Differs from the other forms by its uniform almost blue-black upperside. Wings 116–123 mm.

11. *Cacomantis variolosus websteri* Hart.

Cacomantis websteri Hartert, in Webster's *Through New Guinea*, App. p. 370 (1898—New Hanover)

New Hanover.

Differs from all other forms in its constantly dark-grey underside; the under tail-coverts only are sometimes not grey, but cinnamon rufous or barred with rufous; rarely there is a rufous tinge on the upper breast. The tail is rather long.

12. *Cacomantis variolosus macrocerus* Stres.

Cacomantis sepulchralis macrocerus Stresemann, *Anz. Orn. Ges. Bayern*, No. 5, p. 37 (1921—"Neu Pommern, wahrscheinlich auch Neu-Mecklenburg und Neu-Lauenburg").

New Britain, Duke of York Island, and New Ireland.

Wing 116–130 mm. Tail longer than in other subspecies, except New Hanover. Underside with exception of the rufous tail-coverts, pale grey, grey washed with rufous to rufous (with exception of throat).

13. *Cacomantis variolosus oreophilus* subsp. nov.

Subspecies *C. v. infaustus* dictae similis, sed rostro robustiore, brevior primo visu distinguendus.

Mountain Ranges of South-Eastern Papua, but also near Collingwood Bay (Haidana), and inland of Milne Bay, as well as on the foothills of the Snow Mountains Range (Mimika, Wataikwa, Setekwa, and Eilanden Rivers),

Differs from *C. s. infaustus* at a glance by its thicker, and generally shorter and at base wider bill. The underside is greyish brown or brownish grey with a ferruginous wash, which in a few specimens is so strong that the underside looks very rufous, while sometimes the colour is more slaty and darker—but not one of the over twenty examined is quite grey or quite rufous. Wings 116–123, once (Hydrographer Mts.) 126 mm. Other Hydrographer Mts. specimens are not so large.

Type: “♂” ad., Hydrographer Mts., W. of Dyke Acland Bay, 2,500 feet, 12.v.1918. A. Eichhorn coll. No. 8015.

14. *Cacomantis variolosus variolosus* (Vig. & Horsf.).

? *Cuculus rufulus* Vieillot, *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.* (nouv. éd.), vii, p. 234 (1817—Australia); Pucheran, *Rev. et Mag. Zool.* 1852, p. 562 (not 560!).—The description of Vieillot's *Cuculus rufulus* agrees in my opinion much better with the present species than with *cineraceus* (*flabelliformis* auct.), but it was taken from a young bird, and is too vague to be accepted with certainty. Pucheran, when saying that Vieillot's *rufulus* was a young “*cineraceus*, espèce présentement rapportée au *C. flabelliformis*,” judged from the description, as he expressly stated, and had not seen the type, which was not in the Paris Museum, but in the collection of M. Baillon.

Cuculus Variolosus Vigors & Horsfield, *Trans. Linn. Soc. London*, xv, p. 300 (1827—“Paramatta, New South Wales”). Type (a young bird) in the British Museum.

Cuculus insperatus Gould, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1845, p. 19 (New South Wales).

Top of head slate-colour, back, wings, and tail brownish- or olive-grey, somewhat variable, throat sometimes extending to the chest, pale grey, rest of underside light fawn-colour, or cinnamon-fawn, generally with some greyish tinge. Wings 130–140 mm.

Victoria, New South Wales, and South Queensland. This form is, at least partially, migratory, having occurred on Batjan and on migration at Cape York.

15. *Cacomantis variolosus dumetorum* (Gould).

Cuculus dumetorum Gould, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1845, p. 19 (Port Essington, Northern Territory).

Cacomantis lineatus Dodd, *Emu*, xii, p. 165 (1913—Nelson near Cairns in N. Queensland. Description of a young bird in first plumage, but no mention of this fact!).

Cuculus westwoodia Mathews, “*Austral Avian Record*,” i, p. 190 (1913—“Central Queensland, Range Queensland.” Description of a ♀ with underside barred with dull white and pale brownish grey, from Westwood near Rockhampton, Queensland).

Cacomantis pyrrhophanus vidgeni Mathews, *B. Austr.* vii, p. 326 (1918—Cape York).

Very much like *variolosus* but paler, upperside more greyish, underside lighter, wing shorter, bill as a rule thinner, sometimes shorter; the weaker bill is specially conspicuous in most specimens from Melville Island and N.W. Australia as well as in those from Cape York. Wings 120–130, exceptionally to 132 mm. The specimens from Normanton (from the Mathews collection) have mostly rather larger bills, some as big as those of *variolosus*, but even among these there is much variation, and it seems to me quite evident that all the northern birds from N.W. Australia, Melville Island, Arnhem Land, Cape York, and Northern Queensland are one and the same subspecies—with the exception of a few specimens, which were doubtless on migration. This form is also, at least partially, migratory, having occurred on Batjan, Key Islands, and apparently New Guinea (Dorey). North-West Australia, Melville Island, and Arnhem Land to Cape York, Cape York Peninsula, Northern and Middle Queensland. Also Key Islands and Batjan on migration.

In Mathews's *B. Australia* these birds are very unsatisfactorily treated.

As usual in his later volumes the author places all names given to a species and its allies as if they were synonyms! Then, at the end of his article on the particular species he mentions which forms might now, in his opinion, be separated, often without clearly stating differences, so that one can only find them out by referring to the original quotations, which are only available to a few. Even having done so in this case, no differences are even to be guessed between *lineatus* and *vidgeni*. As it is, one can only distinguish between a southern form (*variolosus*) and a northern one (*dumetorum*).

Mathews says that he has not seen any extra-Australian specimens of either *variolosus* or *dumetorum*, but there are in the Tring Museum adults of both (see distribution, above), and young from the Oetakwa River, Obi, Halmahera, Kisser, and Ceramlaut, of which, however, I am uncertain whether they belong to *variolosus* or *dumetorum*, as I do not know how the young of these subspecies differ.

CACOMANTIS CASTANEIVENTRIS.

1. *Cacomantis castaneiventris castaneiventris* Gould.

Cuculus (Cacomantis) castaneiventris Gould, *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* ser. III, vol. xx, p. 269 (1867—Cape York district).

♂♀ ad., upperside slate-colour, chin slaty-grey, rest of underside chestnut; tail a bit darker than wings, more steel-black, all except the middle ones notched or small spotted with white along the edges, tipped with white, outermost pair with white, sometimes incomplete, cross-bars on the inner webs, second pair with white spots along the shaft. Young above, rusty-brown, underside pale cinnamon buff, palest on abdomen, tail-feathers with rufous tips, edges rufous, outer pairs barred (more or less irregularly) with rufous.

Distinguished from other species by the uniform, unspotted, and unbarred upper- and underside of the body of the young!

Cape York Peninsula to Claudie River and Cooktown.

This bird is rare in collections, and there are only a few specimens of it. There are only three adults and one young in the Mathews collection.

? *Cacomantis castaneiventris arfakianus* Salvad.

Cacomantis arfakianus Salvadori, *Orn. Pap.*, Aggiunte i, p. 49 (1889—Western New Guinea).

Said to be smaller, with a longer bill, and to have a paler underside than *C. castaneiventris*. The wing in Cape York specimens is really only 107–111, Salvadori gives 106–113, so this is no difference from the Cape York form, while in the dark *weiskei* the wing is 111–119 mm. But Salvadori had also before him a ♂ from Arfak, Beccari coll., with a wing of quite 115 mm. The bills vary somewhat everywhere, and it cannot be said that the "*arfakianus*" have longer bills. As regards the paler underside, it must be explained that, while a series from the mountains of British New Guinea (twenty-one specimens in Tring!), a few from the Snow Mountains, one from the Weylandt Mountains, and one from Arfak (specimen *e* of Salvadori's list in *Orn. Pap.* i, p. 334), and apparently one from the Sepik River, are underneath very dark, and have wings of 111–119 mm., there are a number of others from the Berau Peninsula, Snow Mts., and British Papua which have the wings as in the Australian form, the underside lighter than in the above-mentioned mountain birds. Through Dr. Gestro's kindness I have been able to examine Salvatore's specimens.

We have before us one young from Naiabui, S.E. Papua, which has the

underside very much like the only known young from Australia (Cape York, H. S. Vidgen coll., ex coll. Mathews), though a little browner, and in Salvadori's dark Arfak specimen *e* some feathers on the abdomen are whitish!

The question is now: in which relation to these paler birds stand the others? They seem to be indistinguishable from Cape York *castaneiventris* and should not have been separated by name! But when Salvadori named "*arfakianus*" he did this, apparently, not with all the material in hand that he had when writing his immortal work, but named it on A. B. Meyer's note, in *Zeitschr. ges. Orn.* iii, p. 12, and having compared a dark Hufeisen Mts. bird with the Arfak ones, without seeing his dark specimen *e*, and obviously believing that Australian birds were also dark! and altogether he only *suggested* this new subspecies as being "not improbable"!

The paler birds inhabit perhaps the lowlands, while the dark *weiskei* are chiefly or entirely mountain-dwellers; but even this requires confirmation, and it may be that all light and dark birds are after all the same!

We cannot suggest that the young of the paler Papuan specimens are whitish underneath, because in Salvadori's specimen *e* the new chestnut feathers are of the darkest!

? *Cacomantis castaneiventris* subsp. ?

Cf. *Nov. Zool.* 1907, p. 436.

Cacomantis castaneiventris occurs also on the Aru Islands, as two specimens from there are known: an adult male collected by Rosenberg, in the Leyden Museum, and a young, collected by Heinrich Kühn, in the Tring Museum. The adult is dark like *C. c. weiskei*, wing 111 mm., bill somewhat small and slender. The young, however, differs in having the underside not brown, but creamy white, with a few chestnut feathers coming in; these coming feathers appear to be more like those of Cape York birds, not as dark as in *weiskei*, but single feathers on a white ground are difficult to judge to a nicety. The bill is large. The question arises: Is the Aru form the same as the Papuan one, the underside being abnormal, or is it a local subspecies, differing only in the young, and possibly in very minute details of the adult? These questions can only be solved on the evidence of a series from Aru.

2. *Cacomantis castaneiventris weiskei* Rehw.

Cacomantis weiskei Reichenow, *Orn. Monatsber.* 1900, p. 186 (Aroa River, 5,000 feet).

Cacomantis castaneiventris bihagi Mathews, "Austral Avian Record," ii, p. 92 (1914—Bihagi, head of the Mambare River, British New Guinea).

This form, of which we have now twenty-one adult and three young, is very dark on the underside, darker than the (few) Cape York specimens available, the bill is inclined to be short and thick, but varies! The young are on the underside brown, darker than in the one from Cape York and the one from Naiabui, S.E. Papua. It seems, therefore, that this dark form is peculiar to New Guinea, and perhaps only to the mountains. Reichenow described it from a young bird, saying that it was apparently ("anscheinend") a younger bird, but this is most obvious. He only knew young *Cacomantis* to be barred and spotted, and the unspotted young of *C. castaneiventris* was not described until 1907 (*Nov. Zool.* p. 436). Mathews was not aware of the description of *C. weiskei*, the type of which is in the British Museum; we have adults from the same locality (Mambare River).

It is remarkable that Ogilvic-Grant (*Ibis, Jubilee Supplement* ii, p. 182, 1915) separated the dark *weiskei* as *C. castaneiventris* from the lighter birds, which he called *C. castaneiventris arfakianus*, saying that they were "undoubtedly" referable to this subspecies. (See what I said above!) Mathews holds him to task for his remarks (*B. Australia*, p. 330), and says that he finds them "all to be referable to one form, the dark coloured specimen being adult, while the lighter ones are the first adult plumage." This view is not correct, as there is no different first adult plumage, two of our adult *weiskei* still showing juvenile wing- and body-feathers, being of the darkest, and also the one from Arfak mentioned above (specimen *e* of Salvadori's list) has some juvenile feathers remaining on the abdomen which seem to be as whitish as in our Aru bird (!), and yet the fresh chestnut feathers are of the very darkest!

CACOMANTIS CINERACEUS.

1. *Cacomantis cineraceus cineraceus* (Vig. & Horsf.).

Cacomantis flabelliformis auct. nec *Cuculus flabelliformis* Latham, *Ind. Orn. Suppl.* ii, p. 30! Latham's name is based on the description and plate of the "Fan-tailed Cuckoo" in the *Suppl.* ii to the *General Synopsis of Birds*, p. 138, pl. cxxvi. We must agree with North and Mathews that the name *flabelliformis* is not acceptable, and it is regrettable that for about three-quarters of a century the name has been generally used. Latham described the bird—like many others—from a drawing, which, in this case, must have been a fanciful picture, as no such bird is yet known to exist. Latham's "Fan-tailed Cuckoo" is above brownish brown, underneath orange, with a broad black collar across the jugulum.

Cuculus cineraceus Vigors & Horsfield, *Trans. Linn. Soc. London*, xv, p. 298 (1827—"Australia." New South Wales, teste Mathews). Type in British Museum.

Cuculus incertus id., t.c. p. 299 (1827—"Australia." New South Wales, teste Mathews). Type in British Museum.

Cacomantis rufulus (nec *Cuculus rufulus*, Vieillot 1817) North 1906, Mathews 1908, and others. The description of Vieillot is taken from a young *Cacomantis* which was probably a young *C. variolosus*, but is too indefinite to be accepted.

Cuculus rubricatus (nec *Sylvia rubricata* Lath!) Mathews, "Austral Avian Rec." i, p. 21, 1912, *B. Australia*, vii, 312.—Mathews accepted the name *rubricatus*, because he supposed that Latham's Ruddy Warbler, *Gen. Synops.* Suppl. ii, p. 249, and *Sylvia rubricata*, *Index Orn. Suppl.* pl. iv (1801), were based on the Watling Drawing 202 which represents this Cuckoo, but he kindly tells me that he does not now take this view, and I agree with him that the description "a trifle larger than a Red-breast, beneath wholly ferruginous, inclining to yellow, wings and tail brown" is not at all in agreement with this Cuckoo, though Watling's drawing 202 represents a *Cacomantis* and is marked as Latham's *Sylvia rubricata*. The description of *Sylvia rubricata* can never have been taken from the *Cacomantis* represented on pl. 202, which was probably marked in error as the *Sylvia rubricata*.

Cuculus rubricatus athertoni Mathews, "Austral Avian Rec." i, p. 11 (1912—Atherton, North Queensland).

? *Cuculus rubricatus albani* Mathews, t.c. p. 12 (1912—Albany, West Australia).

Cacomantis rubricatus cyrei Mathews, *B. Australia*, vii, p. 320 (1918—Eyre's Peninsula, South Australia).

This species is easily distinguished from the other *Cacomantis* found in Australia by its bluish slate upperside and cinnamon rufous, more or less vinous, underside, large size and long slate-black tail with pure-white markings.

It inhabits Australia, with the exception of the north-east parts, and Arnhem Land, but occurs also on Tasmania and Flinders Island. Mathews separated four subspecies, *C. rubricatus rubricatus*, *athertoni*, *albani*, and *eyrei*.

The type-specimen of *athertoni*, from the Baron River, as per label, from Atherton according to Mathews, in N. Queensland, is, I have no doubt, an

exceptional specimen, being exceptionally small, and the underside is brighter rufous, not "deeper" as Mathews says! The wing measures only 133 mm. It is, however, difficult to understand how Mathews can say that the birds from that district are a different subspecies, as a series from there do not differ in the least from others, only this one specimen being different!

C. c. albani is described as being smaller, paler above and below! The fact, however, is that at least two examples are *deeper* rufous on the underside, one of them the type. Probably Mathews meant to say deeper when he wrote paler, as nobody can possibly describe a deeper rufous colour as paler. The supposed smaller size is incorrect. It is true that the left wing of the type measures 138 mm., as he says, but specimens from Broome Hill and Warren River, in the same region, have wings of 142, 144, and 149 mm. I have allowed a ? with the name *albani*, as it is possible that in S.W. Australia a form with generally darker underside might predominate—but I do not believe it.

To crown his work Mathews, in 1918, described *eyrei*, saying that "South Australian birds are darker in colouration than the typical series," but this is absolutely *not* the case.

(In the review of the supposed subspecies of "*rubricatus*" Mathews gave an incomplete description of the distribution. Under his "*athertoni*" he gave only "Atherton," under *rubricatus* only New South Wales (while it is, of course, found as well in Victoria, South Queensland, etc.), under *eyrei* only Eyre's Peninsula, leaving it to the unfortunate readers to guess to which forms belonged the specimens from Cape York, Kangaroo Island, Tasmania, etc. As I do not separate his subspecies, they all belong for me to *C. cineraceus cineraceus*.)

2. *Cacomantis cineraceus excitus* R. & H.

Cacomantis excitus Rothschild & Hartert, *Nov. Zool.* xiv, p. 436 (1907—"In montibus Novae Guineae meridionalis orientalis." Type: Owgarrar, Angabunga River).

Mountains on Upper Aroa, Mambare and Angabunga Rivers, Owen Stanley Range.

Upperside very much darker than in *cineraceus cineraceus*, underside also, deep chestnut.

3. *Cacomantis cineraceus meeki* R. & H.

Cacomantis meeki Rothschild & Hartert, *Nov. Zool.* ix, p. 586 (1902—"Insula Ysabel dicta, ins. Salomonis").

Isabel Island, Solomon group.

Much like *C. c. cineraceus*, but upperside darker, slaty-black, underside also darker, uniform, but not as deep chestnut as in *excitus*.

When describing this Cuckoo we did not compare it with its nearest ally, *C. c. bronzinus* (rectius *pyrrhophanus*), from New Caledonia, as we had no specimen from there, but I find now that it is indeed very close to it. All I can see is, that the underside of *pyrrhophanes* is a shade brighter, and perhaps deeper in colour, while the bill is apparently slenderer; the latter character is perhaps a mere suggestion, as we have only two of each form, and in two, one from New Caledonia and one from Isabel, the beak is shot off. As birds from New Caledonia are, as a rule, very different from those of the Solomons, and as a quite different race inhabits the New Hebrides, I have no doubt that these differences, minute as they are, must be constant, and that *meeki* is separable from *pyrrhophanus*, but more material is desirable to finally settle this point.

4. *Cacomantis cineraceus pyrrhophanus* (Vieill.).

Cuculus pyrrhophanus Vieillot, *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.* nouv. éd. viii, p. 234 (not 324) (1817—"Nouvelle Hollande," error for "Nouvelle Calédonie"); Pucheran, *Rev. et Mag.* 1852, p. 560 (Pucheran says that the type was collected by Labillardière on Java; though collected by Labillardière, however, it came, according to the label, from New Caledonia; this must be the case because the description and the specimen agree absolutely with New Caledonian specimens, and not with anything occurring on Java or in Australia).

Cuculus (Cacomantis) bronzinus Gray, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1859, p. 164 (Island of Nu, New Caledonia).

Only known from New Caledonia, but see above about *C. c. meeki*, which is very much like it.

I am very much obliged to Dr. Menegaux and Dr. Trouessart of the Paris Museum, for kindly sending over the type of Vieillot's *Cuculus pyrrhophanus*. It agrees entirely with two adults from New Caledonia collected by P. D. Montague.

It is not clear why Mathews concluded that the name *C. pyrrhophanus* referred to a bird of the *variolosus* group, as the description did not agree with the latter, since it is not entirely rufous underneath. The description of the upperside by Vieillot is bad, but was corrected by Pucheran. Vieillot's description, in any case, if taken from an Australian specimen, would have suited *cineraceus* or *castaneiventris* much better than *variolosus*, and I cannot understand why Mathews fixed the name on the latter group, thus confusing the nomenclature for the time being. When quoting Vieillot's name he adds: "Nouvelle Hollande" = Java [=Timor?]. This is a somewhat enigmatical though short way, and I do not know why Timor was suggested at all. Labillardière collected on Java as well as New Caledonia; so it came that Pucheran thought the type came from Java, while Vieillot, who more than once confused localities, mixed up New Holland and New Caledonia. In any case, Mathews, when writing a big and important book, *The Birds of Australia*, feeling the uncertainty of the name *pyrrhophanus*, because he did not venture to assign it to any subspecies, should have tried to examine the type, either by asking for its loan or by examining it in the Paris Museum. The type-specimen (originally mounted, of course) is in good condition. The contrast of the somewhat faded wing to the slate colour of the head and back is obvious, the colour of the underside has not changed, and is as in freshly collected specimens. The wing measures 142, in two fresh specimens 143 and 145 mm.

5. *Cacomantis cineraceus simus* (Peale).

Cuculus simus Peale, *U.S. Expl. Exp.* p. 134 (Sandalwood Bay, Fiji Islands).

Cuculus infuscatus Hartlaub, *Ibis*, 1866, p. 172 (Viti Levu, Fiji Islands).

Much like *C. c. pyrrhophanus*, but much smaller (wings 128-132 mm.), bill shorter and wider, underside a shade brighter, upperside more brownish. Tail-bars wider on outer rectrices.

Stresemann was right in stating that *C. infuscatus* is not a different species, but the blackish variety of *simus*!

6. *Cacomantis cineraceus schistaceigularis* Sharpe.

Cacomantis schistaceigularis Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1900, p. 338 (Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides).

New Hebrides.

Very much like *C. c. simus*, but upper and underside darker, grey of throat darker and more extended.